500.41297CX1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Yoshiro MIKAMI, et al.

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Serial No.:

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Group:

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Examiner:

LIANG, Regina

Confirmation No.:

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop: AF

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

October 4, 2006

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated April 4, 2006, the period of response for which extension of time is requested in the attached Petition for Extension of Time, please amend the above-identified application as listed below and as set forth on the following pages:

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2;

Remarks are included beginning on page 7; and

Authorization is included on page 14.